

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-02 /035 W  
-----221714Z 073035 /47

R 221643Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2961  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS  
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK  
SUBJECT: A NEW "MR. BIG" AT TRANSPORT HOUSE

REF: A) LONDON 1415 B) LONDON 2241

BEGIN SUMMARY: MOSS EVANS, 51, A NATIONAL ORGANIZER  
OF THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION, WAS FORMALLY  
DECLARED THE WINNER YESTERDAY (APRIL 21) IN THE ELECTION  
/TO SUCCEED JACK JONES AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE  
LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL UNION IN THE TUC. (HE DOES  
NOT ACTUALLY ASSUME OFFICE UNTIL JONES RETIRES IN  
MARCH 1978 WHEN HE REACHES 65.) JOHN COUSINS (A FY77-78  
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IVP GRANTEE), INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR FOR THE  
NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, RUNNING AS  
A RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER, CAME SECOND AFTER AN AGGRESSIVE  
CAMPAIGN. END SUMMARY.

1. EVANS WAS THE FRONT-RUNNER IN THE CONTEST (REF A)  
AND HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF JONES. HE RECEIVED 349,548

VOTES (ABOUT 40 PERCENT OF THE UNION'S 1.9 MILLION MEMBERS VOTED) TO COUSINS' 119,241, WITH THE BALANCE GOING TO A VARIETY OF MAINLY LEFT-WING CANDIDATES INCLUDING ALEX KITSON, FROM SCOTLAND, A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE, WHO TRAILED COUSINS WITH 75,395 VOTES. THE MOST SURPRISING RESULT EMERGING FROM THE CONTEST WAS THE STRONG SHOWING MADE BY COUSINS, WHO RAN AS A RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER, SINCE HIS REGULAR POSITION IS INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION. (HE WAS PREVIOUSLY A NATIONAL OFFICER OF THE UNION.) COUSINS IS THE SON OF FRANK COUSINS, WHO PROCEEDED JACK JONES AS TGWU GENERAL SECRETARY, A FACTOR WHICH UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED HIS ELECTORAL EFFORT. HE CONDUCTED A VERY AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN AND UTILIZED THE GROWING OPPOSITION TO PRESENT PAY POLICY AMONG SECTORS OF THE TGWU BY CALLING FOR AN END TO WAGE RESTRAINT. (IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW COUSINS WILL TRANSLATE HIS GOOD SHOWING IN THE CAMPAIGN INTO ANY REAL POWER IN THE UNION UNLESS HE RETURNS TO AN ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP.)

2. EVANS, 51, IS A WELSHMAN WHO ROSE THROUGH THE UNION MACHINERY. HE BEGAN AS A MACHINIST APPRENTICE IN AN AIRCRAFT SUPPLY FACTOR, BECAME A SHOP STEWARD IN 1951, A FULL-TIME UNION OFFICIAL AT 29 IN THE INDUSTRIAL MIDLANDS, A NATIONAL OFFICER IN THE AUTO INDUSTRY AND ULTIMATELY A NATIONAL ORGANIZER OF THE UNION WHICH PROVIDED HIS SPRINGBOARD TO THE TOP JOB. HE IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED A HARD WORKING "UNION MAN" AND ALTHOUGH A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOYAL LABOR PARTY MEMBER, HE HAS MADE FEW PUBLIC ORONOUNCEMENTS ON NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL IS-

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 CU-02 /035 W

-----221713Z 072977 /47

R 221643Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2962  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
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SUES. HE IS AN AFFABLE, GREGARIOUS INDIVIDUAL WHO PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER BRITISH TRADE UNION FIGURE IS CAST IN THE AMERICAN MOLD, WITH A STRONG PENCHANT FOR THE PRACTICAL SOLUTION RATHER THAN THE IDEOLOGICAL POSITION.

3. EVANS WILL BE IN COMMAND OF A POWERFUL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, WITH CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THE LABOR PARTY AND PARTICULARLY ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WHERE IT CONTROLS ABOUT ONE-SIXTH OF THE TOTAL VOTE. THUS FAR HE HAS OPERATED IN THE SHADOW OF THE MAN. JACK JONES, WHO HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWERED OVER ALL OTHER TRADE UNION LEADERS OF THE CURRENT GENERATION, WITH A CHARISMA AND INTELLECTUAL ABILITY VERY FEW OF THEM APPROACH. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE TGWU IS A UNION WITH CONSIDERABLE CONTROL FROM THE CENTER -- IN CONTRAST TO THE AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERS, FOR EXAMPLE -- EVANS WILL STILL NEED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE FITS THE TRADITIONAL PATTERN OF A STRONG FATHER FIGURE. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT MAN BUT HE HAS NOT YET DEMONSTRATED THE INTELLECTUAL STATURE AND INNOVATIVE QUALITY WHICH GAVE JONES SUCH "STAR" QUALITY.

4. DURING THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE TOP POST, EVANS WAS A VERY CAUTIOUS FRONT-RUNNER. HE DID NOT VEER PUBLICLY FROM THE JONES POSITION ON KEY ISSUES, ALTHOUGH PRI-

VATELY HE INDICATED, AT LEAST IMPLICITLY, THAT HE DID NOT SHARE ALL OF JONES' SPECIAL PASSIONS (REF B). HIS OWN IDEAS HAVE NOT BEEN CLEARLY ENUNCIATED, HOWEVER, EITHER IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC, BUT IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF HE DID NOT DEVELOP HIS VIEWS MORE PRECISELY AS JONES FADES FROM THE NATIONAL SCENE. (JONES IS LIKELY TO PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN THE CURRENT "NEGOTIATIONS" WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON PAY POLICY, BUT MAY WELL PHASE OUT MORE RAPIDLY AFTER THE TRANSPORT WORKERS CONFERENCE IN JULY.) IN ANY CASE, WHEN THE TRANSITION IS COMPLETED, EVANS WILL BECOME. BY VIRTUE OF HIS UNION'S CENTRAL ROLE, THE NEW "MR. BIG".

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## Message Attributes

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